



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

January 12, 2015

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: John C. Austin, President, State Board of Education

SUBJECT: Recommendations for 2014-2015 Priorities for the Governor and Legislature

The State Board of Education will discuss the attached document, Michigan State Board of Education Recommendations for 2014-15 Priorities for the Governor and Legislature, at its meeting on January 13, 2015.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Michigan State Board of Education Recommendations for 2014-2015 Priorities for the Governor and Legislature

The State Board of Education congratulates newly elected and returning legislators; and Governor Rick Snyder on his re-election to a second term. We look forward to productive collaboration on important education efforts, and particularly welcome the Governor's priority, as stated in his inaugural message, on preparing the talent Michigan needs to compete and to help our young people be prepared for high-paying jobs.

As a new legislative session begins, the State Board of Education would like to share a recently developed set of recommendations, intended to **encourage and inform comprehensive school finance reform, to improve the quality of Michigan schools, and better support our educators and students** –

(http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Item_D_School_Org_Context_for_Change_FINAL_474852_7.pdf) including:

- Strategies for using Michigan's K-12 investment more thoughtfully and strategically to improve student outcomes (as seen in the highest performing states). The report urges action to focus spending where it will have the most impact; in teacher training, early childhood education, to support implementation of Michigan's standards, and other areas. We wish to partner with the Legislature to explore thoughtful solutions and develop an appropriate Michigan finance system for good schools and better student success.
- Designing a per pupil funding model that accounts for differences in the different costs, and the different results of various learning programs; and that ensures resources sufficient to help all children learn; including at-risk students, and those with specific learning needs to make sure all students get the resources they need to learn successfully.
- Legislation to reform our school choice, charter and cyber school policy to buffer schools from year-to-year changes in resources based on enrollment shifts; and to ensure equal and consistent attention to transparency and quality control among all schools.
- Investigation and pursuit of solutions to post Proposal A funding problems, including school infrastructure, technology, and local districts wishing to raise additional funds.